

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contents management apparatus that manages contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user, comprising:
  - 5 a contents request acquiring unit that acquires contents request information from the user;
  - a contents element extracting unit that extracts the contents elements based on the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from
  - 10 the user; and
  - a contents restructuring unit that restructures new contents from the contents elements extracted.
2. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1,
  - 15 wherein the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements from a plurality of different contents.
3. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1,
  - 20 further comprising a contents storage unit that stores the contents, wherein
  - the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements from the contents stored in the contents storage unit.

4. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with contents relevant information that is related with the  
5 contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on the contents relevant information.

5. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
10 wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with a genre of the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on the genres.

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6. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with a level of importance of the contents elements, and

20 the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on the level of importance.

7. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein

25 the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in

association with a popularity of the contents elements, and  
the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
element based on the popularity.

5 8. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein

the contents elements include information on lecturers,  
the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with popularity of the lecturers, and

10 the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on the popularity.

9. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
further comprising a user information acquiring unit that acquires user  
15 identification information for identifying the user to be provided with the  
contents, wherein

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on user relevant information that is related with the  
user identification information acquired.

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10. The contents management apparatus according to claim 9,  
wherein the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on a learning level of the user corresponding to the  
user identification information.

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11. The contents management apparatus according to claim 10,  
wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with an updating date of the contents elements, and

5 the contents element extracting unit extracts, based on the  
contents elements and a providing date recorded in the user  
identification information as previously provided, the contents elements  
corresponding to the updating date after the providing date.

10 12. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the contents element extracting unit extracts contents elements  
other than the contents elements previously provided to the user.

13. The contents management apparatus according to claim 12,  
15 further comprising:

a contents providing unit that provides the contents to the user;  
an evaluation acquiring unit that acquires an evaluation of the  
contents elements included in the contents provided from the user who  
used the contents; and

20 an updating unit that updates contents element relevant  
information that is related with the contents elements based on the  
evaluations acquired.

14. The contents management apparatus according to claim 9,  
further comprising a user information storage unit that stores the user  
identification information and the user relevant information  
corresponding to each other.

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15. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein

the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with an updating date of the contents elements, and

10 the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on the updating date.

16. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein

15 the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with a creating date of the contents elements, and  
the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents  
elements based on the creating date.

20 17. The contents management apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein

the contents elements include at least one of moving image data  
and sound data,

25 the contents storage unit stores the contents elements in  
association with a playing time of the contents elements, and

the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements based on the playing time and a total playing time of the contents to be restructured.

5 18. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a specification acquiring unit that acquires specification information representing contents elements to be included in the contents that is restructured by the contents restructuring unit from the user, wherein

10 the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents elements specified by the specification information acquired.

19. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the contents restructuring unit restructures the contents 15 elements based on a predetermined structuring order.

20. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the contents elements represent contents related to learning and when the contents elements are corresponding to a level 20 of the learning, the contents restructuring unit restructures the contents elements based on the level of the learning.

21. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a similarity determining unit that determines 25 similarity between the contents elements to be restructured by the

contents restructuring unit, wherein

upon the similarity determining unit determining that two predetermined contents elements are similar, the contents restructuring unit includes only one of the two contents elements in the new contents.

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22. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an accounting unit that collects billing information when the contents elements included in the new contents are related with the billing information.

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23. The contents management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the contents include lecture contents information having at least one of moving image data, sound data, and still image data, and meta

15 contents description information related with the contents elements, and the meta contents description information includes lecture relevant information about a lecture and inter-contents information representing a relation between the contents elements.

20 24. A contents management system comprising:

a contents management apparatus that manages contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user; and

25 a contents providing apparatus that provides the contents to the user, wherein

the contents providing apparatus includes

    a contents request acquiring unit that acquires contents request information from the user;

    a contents element extracting unit that extracts the

5   contents elements based on the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user;

    a contents restructuring unit that restructures new contents from the contents elements extracted; and

10   a contents providing unit that provides the new contents to the user,

    the contents management apparatus includes a contents storage unit that stores a plurality of contents from which the contents element extracting unit of the contents providing apparatus extracts the

15   contents elements, and

    the contents management apparatus and the contents providing apparatus communicate with each other via a network.

25.   The contents management system according to claim 24,

20   wherein

    the contents providing apparatus further includes a user information storage unit that stores user relevant information about the user to whom the contents are provided, and

    the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents

25   elements based on the user relevant information stored in the user

information storage unit.

26. A contents management system comprising:
  - a contents management apparatus that manages contents
- 5 including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user; and
  - a contents providing apparatus that provides the contents to the user, wherein
    - the contents management apparatus includes
      - 10 a contents request acquiring unit that acquires contents request information from the user;
      - a contents element extracting unit that extracts the contents elements based on the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request
    - 15 information from the user;
      - a contents restructuring unit that restructures new contents from the contents elements extracted; and
      - a contents providing unit that provides the new contents to the user,
    - 20 the contents providing apparatus includes
      - an output unit that outputs the contents acquired from the contents providing apparatus via a network; and
      - a user information storage unit that stores user relevant information about the user to whom the contents are provided,
    - 25 the contents element extracting unit extracts the contents

elements based on the user relevant information stored in the user information storage unit and

the contents element extracting unit of the contents management apparatus extracts the contents elements determined 5 based on the user relevant information stored in the user information storage unit.

27. A method of managing contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user, comprising:

10 acquiring contents request information from the user;  
extracting the contents elements based on the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user; and  
restructuring new contents from the contents elements  
15 extracted.

28. A computer program that realizes a method of managing contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user on a computer, making the 20 computer execute:

acquiring contents request information from the user;  
extracting the contents elements based on the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user; and  
25 restructuring new contents from the contents elements

extracted.

29. A computer readable recording medium that stores a computer program that realizes a method of managing contents including a plurality of contents elements representing information to be provided to a user on a computer, and a plurality of contents to which the computer program refers, wherein the computer program makes the computer execute:

acquiring contents request information from the user;

10 extracting the contents elements based on the contents request information when the contents request acquiring unit acquires the contents request information from the user; and

restructuring new contents from the contents elements extracted.

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30. Contents data that includes a plurality of contents element data, comprising:

lecture contents information that includes at least one of moving image data, sound data, and still image data; and

20 meta contents description information related to the data, corresponding to at least one of the contents data and the contents element data, wherein

the meta contents description information includes lecture relevant information and inter-data information representing relation

25 between the contents data, between the contents element data, and

**between the contents data and the contents element data.**